

REMARKS

In this paper, claims 1, 2, 9, 11 and 20 are currently amended and claim 7 has been canceled. After entry of the above amendment, claims 1-6 and 8-21 are pending, and claim 7 has been canceled.

The applicant appreciates the allowance of claim 21.

The applicant appreciates the indicated allowability of claims 2, 9, 11-15 and 20 if rewritten in independent form. Claims 2, 9, 11 and 20 have rewritten to be in independent form, including the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, so it is believed that claims 2, 9, 11-15 and 20 are now allowable.

Claims 1, 3, 4 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Olson (US 1,526,008). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the first lock member includes a spindle mating portion axially spaced from the mating portion and shaped to nonrotatably fix the first lock member relative to the hub spindle. Olson discloses a ball bearing comprising an inner race member (10) loosely mounted on a shaft (13). Inner race member (10) has an eccentric outer peripheral groove (14) that supports a split ring (15). A collar (16) is placed on shaft (13) adjacent to inner race member (10). Collar (16) has a flange (18) with an eccentric bore (19) that fits over split ring (15) in the eccentric outer peripheral groove (14) of inner race member (10). Collar (16) is fixed to shaft (13) by a set screw (17). The eccentric coupling between flange (18) and the split ring (15) in outer peripheral groove (14) of inner race member (10) prevents rotation of inner race member (10) relative to shaft (13). However, collar (16) relies on set screw (17) to nonrotatably fix collar (16) to shaft (13). Thus, collar (16) does not include a spindle mating portion shaped to nonrotatably fix collar (16) relative to spindle (13).

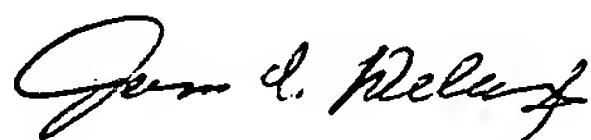
Claims 1, 5-8, 10 and 16-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Smith (US 700,251). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed.

Smith discloses an adjustable bearing cone (C) screwed onto an axle (A). Adjustable bearing cone (C) has a cylindrical flange (c) in which are formed a plurality of notches (c'). A locking washer (E) is placed over axle (A), wherein locking washer (E) has an inwardly projecting tongue (e) and an outwardly projecting tongue (e). Inwardly projecting tongue (e) engages a groove (a) formed in axle (A) to nonrotatably fix locking washer (E) to axle (A), and outwardly extending tongue (e') engages one of the notches (c') in adjustable bearing cone (C) to nonrotatably fix adjustable bearing cone (C) to locking washer (E). Locking washer (E) therefore nonrotatably locks adjustable cone (C) to axle (A).

As noted above, claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the first lock member includes a spindle mating portion axially spaced from the mating portion and shaped to nonrotatably fix the first lock member relative to the hub spindle. In Smith's locking washer (E), the inwardly extending tongue (e) that mates with axle (A) is axially aligned with the outwardly extending tongue (e') that mates with adjustable cone (C). Thus, Smith neither discloses nor suggests the axially spaced spindle mating portion recited in amended claim 1.

Accordingly, it is believed that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 have been overcome by the foregoing amendment and remarks, and it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested. Allowance of all claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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